

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Susan James, Heidi Hample, Molly Fleuckiger, Maureen St. Hilaire, Janice Dallas

Members Absent: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator not present today

Others Present: n/a

Meeting began at 4:10 pm

1. **Meeting minutes from 6/19/13 approved with correction to defining AAB to Architectural Access Board**
2. **Curb cuts**
 - John spent time over the past month compiling list of locations in need of curb cut ramps, forwarded this map/list to Vinnie (DPW)
 - Areas discussed at meeting: Mill St around medical building, Winsor Towers/Knights of Columbus, Chestnut Terrace, Mill St/Summer
 - Discussion of priority- locations where there are no ramps, then fixing ones that are not completely to code
 - This FY the contract will go out to bid giving approximate # of ramps but not actually listing them, giving us more time to compile a solid list
 - *John will be the go to person on this project: any suggestions from Board or community should be forwarded to John so that he can formulate one list*
 - *Plan is to develop a list and vote on it at next meeting in August.*
 - *Will look at requests sent in from community to see if when can get these suggestions on the list*
3. **Town Day**
 - Sept 21, 2013
 - Tables, canopy, volunteers between 10-3, commission members to check calendar for availability that day
 - Ideas discussed: handouts to community, will likely continue with bags and pens, other ideas discussed
 - Sign language: discussion of finding a community member that could volunteer to teach some basic sign language phrases. Heidi to follow up on this
 - Games- fun interactive to bring more people to the table

- Braille- Kerrie to reach out to Perkins to see if we can borrow a device to type out people's names
- Newsletter-distribution other than just at town day...Advocate, Patch, town website, elderly housing, special education dept (to issue to families)
- Item on curb cuts, what we have done and what we are planning. Offering John as resource to community to give input to. John to write something up.
- Item on Mike and his co-role for Town and on commission. Mike to write something up.
- Personal stories about people in community with disabilities: Maureen and Rachel to touch base with their daughters about a potential spotlight
- Discussion of an article to point out the inappropriateness of the "R" word, Rachel has a nice grid to use as a visual, respectful disability language- Heidi
- Mention of awards given within the community
- Find success stories within community regarding use of accessible parks- possibly Parks & Rec dept has something to ad
- Arlington police dept underwent sensitivity training this year re: stressful situations and how best to approach people in crisis and/or with special needs/conditions
- Write up about job fairs that COD co-sponsored

4. Master Plan

- Developing strategic document for the town's vision going forward, so that with new projects it can be used as a guideline instead of starting over
- Abstract- it is advisory in nature, not by laws or regulations
- Molly has attended some events- brainstorming events take place, a consulting company has been hired, workshops have taken place
- Now the planning department is going to meet with stakeholders within the town, are we on that list?

5. Goals

- Develop plan for commission to vote on items
- Strategic planning over next 3 years
- Coordinate information sharing between ADA coordinator and Commission Members

6. Other

- Peirce School revisited discussion
- John visited the school and noted that the parking space in directly in front of the ramp to the sidewalk, essentially blocking it if you park in that space
- Has Ms. Oranchak been re-invited to a meeting?
- Should her suggestions be sent to the AAB for variance request
- Molly to follow up with Jack and the Ms. Oranchak if needed
- Menotomy Tavern- noted that the two handicap spots that had been there when it was a video store have been removed
- **Is this legal? There have been complaints. Will need to follow up.**

- Boys and Girls Club (not accessible to second floor)
- Many special needs programs held in the Boys and Girls club
- John and Maureen to meet at Boys and Girls Club
- It has been discussed in the past and reportedly an elevator cannot be installed due to structure
- Discussed whether a stair glide would be/could be appropriate
- Possibly f/u with state Rep Sean Garballey

TO DO: and/or discuss at next meeting

- Invite Carol (Master Plan) to come to a meeting to speak with us
- Bike rentals for the bike path (accessible)
- Finalize Town Day Plan- have articles into Jack by August meeting
- Further discuss Master Plan/ Transition Plan
- Follow up on Menotomy Tavern parking lot

Meeting adjourned 6:05pm

Next Meeting set August 21, 2013